

Executive Summary

The Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) is a partnership of the City of San Jose, San Jose Redevelopment Agency, and the community to build clean, safe, and attractive neighborhoods with independent and capable neighborhood organizations.

This Thirteenth Street Neighborhood Improvement Plan is one of 22 plans being prepared or updated as the first step in the Strong Neighborhood Initiative process. Ultimately, all of these plan areas will be included in a single Redevelopment Project Area, and thus will become eligible for Redevelopment Agency and other funding and programs for neighborhood improvements. This Plan documents the community's objectives and priorities and provides guidance to the City, Redevelopment Agency and neighborhood stakeholders for implementation.

Plan Vision.

The revitalization of the 13th Street Neighborhoods will include protecting and enhancing neighborhood character, condition, appearance and safety, while ensuring the availability of neighborhood services and amenities, for a diverse and vital residential population.

Plan Goals.

- Goal 1. Retain the economic and cultural diversity of the neighborhood.
- Goal 2. Enhance the neighborhood fabric and quality of the existing residential resources.
- Goal 3. Improve and encourage vibrant and pedestrian-friendly neighborhood commercial areas in the 13th Street neighborhood.
- Goal 4. Reinforce the economic health and vibrancy of the Santa Clara Street Corridor that recognizes the city's vision as "Main Street" while protecting neighborhood resources adjacent to the corridor.
- Goal 5. Enhance the quality and accessibility of the park and open space resources recognizing that the neighborhood is under-served.
- Goal 6. Upgrade the public environment of the existing streets.
- Goal 7. Eliminate the traffic and public safety nuisances and visual blight from the existing railroad right-of-way
- Goal 8. Reduce the incidence of criminal activity especially in those areas where it contributes to blight in the neighborhoods.

- Goal 9. Improve City services so that maintenance and repair programs better meet the needs and particular conditions of the neighborhoods.
- Goal 10. Ensure that the public facilities will meet community needs.
- Goal 11. While recognizing their contribution to the city, minimize the adverse neighborhood impacts that arise from the concentration of social service providers.
- Goal 12. Reclaim the street environment so that it is compatible with the daily lives of the residents and neighborhood businesses rather than merely serving as conduits for through traffic.
- Goal 13. Manage parking on streets and within private development areas in the 13th Street neighborhoods so that parking for local residents and neighborhood businesses is improved .
- Goal 14. Implement physical improvements and increase public safety surveillance so that pedestrians can safely access their community resources and retain their sense of community.
- Goal 15. Provide enhanced public transit facilities and promote high-quality pedestrian environments rather than inaccessible automobile-dominated streets.
- Goal 16: Emphasize measures that result in desirable improvements to the neighborhood, resorting to penalties only as a last resort .
- Goal 17. Establish an on-going role and opportunity for the neighborhood associations and encourage community organization of local businesses.
- Goal 18. Assure appropriate sequencing of improvements and actions.

Plan Concepts

The Plan Concepts for the 13th Street Neighborhoods fall into three categories:

- ***Conservation and Development***
- ***Circulation***
- ***Public Environment***

Conservation and Development

This element focuses on the resources and assets of the individual property owners and residents within the neighborhood, their homes, businesses, and property resources. Two overall concepts emerged from the community in discussions:

- Strengthen neighborhood residential fabric.
- Support new, compatible residential and commercial development in focused, but limited, areas.

Circulation

This element focuses on movement along the public rights-of-way within the neighborhood and specifically looks at various modes of transportation including vehicles, transit, pedestrian, and bicycle. The two primary concepts of this element that emerged in the planning process were:

- Limit regional and inter-community vehicular trips through the 13th Street neighborhoods.
- Promote safe residential neighborhood streets.

Public Environment

This element focuses on the design character and quality of the publicly owned facilities in the neighborhood, including the street environment (roadways and sidewalks), public facilities such as the parks, schools and library, and community services that are directed to managing these resources. It also addresses the community services with responsibilities for neighborhood safety and security.

The key concepts regarding the Public Environment articulated by the NAC and the community at large, which are reflected in the plans that follow, include:

- Improve the streetscape, lighting and other elements of the public environment in key neighborhood centers.
- Provide improved pedestrian connections throughout the neighborhood.
- Create a unique physical identity for the area.
- Improve parks, library and schools.
- Preserve San Jose Medical Center or equivalent downtown medical services.
- Increase neighborhood safety and security.

“Top Ten” Priority Actions

The NAC identified the following top ten priority actions for the 13th Street Neighborhood:

1. Convert One-Way Streets (3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th, Julian and St. James) to Two-Way Residential Streets
2. Implement 13th Street Mixed Use Neighborhood Business Corridor Redevelopment between Jackson Street and U.S. 101
3. Design and Implement 13th Street Streetscape Improvements between Empire Street and U.S. 101 (including Old Oakland Road)
4. Implement Traffic Calming Improvements and Increase Traffic Enforcement

5. Implement Pedestrian Corridor Enhancements on Primary Pedestrian Corridors
6. Ensure the Availability of Full-Service Hospital Facilities, Particularly Trauma Center Services, within the Greater Downtown
7. Increase Code Enforcement Activities Regarding Residential Property Maintenance
8. Renovate Backesto Park
9. Implement Bicycle Route/ Trail Improvements along Coyote Creek and in an East-West Corridor to Link Coyote Creek and the Guadalupe River Park
10. Encourage Infill of Small Residential Vacant Lot Infill with Historic Buildings or Appropriately Scaled and Designed Projects that Maintain the Character of the Neighborhood